

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Afro-Cuban dance workshop at Portland State



Cuban dance artists present workshop at PSU

Portland State University's World Dance Office presents a three-day Afro-Cuban dance workshop.

It is titled "Afro-Cuban Rituals," with Cuban artists Teresita Dome Perez and Regino Jimenez Saez Friday through Sunday, May 23-25, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Room 207 of PSU's Health & Physical Education building, 930 SW Hall.

Cost is \$8 per class for the general public; \$6 for PSU staff, faculty and non-PSU students with valid identification; free to PSU students with valid I.D. For more information call 725-5670.

The workshop is open to the whole community and to dancers of all experience levels.

Participants will learn about the dances, rhythms, religion, and rich culture of Cuba.

Women should wear long full

skirts. Men should wear comfortable clothing allowing for a range of movement.

Registration begins in Room 207 a half hour before the class begins.

Teresita Perez was born in Cuba and grew up amidst the rich folkloric traditions in Matanzas.

At 17 she was asked to join the world-renowned Grupo Afro-Cuba de Matanzas.

For 15 years she performed and toured with Afro-Cuba as an ensemble member, principal dancer and educator.

She has participated in the Festival de Caribe in Santiago de Cuba, the Fiesta de Rumba y Tambor, the Havana Jazz Festival, and the Banff Centre for the Arts AfroCubanismo Festival in Canada.

She has won awards and commendations for her work both in

Cuba and abroad.

Regino Jimenez Saez is one of the foremost authorities on Afro-Cuban music and the bat-drum.

He is the musical director of Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, originally known as Conjunto de Danza Moderna.

He joined the group in 1963 under the leadership of Jesus Perez, known as the grand maestro of bat-drumming, taking over as director of the percussion orchestra after Perez' death.

Regino also directs one of the most sought-after sacred bat-drum groups in the Havana Santeria community, performing more than six ceremonies a week.

His expertise in the music, customs and rituals of Cuba is well known there and has been of assistance to several researchers in the US.

## Ali, Cosby honored at Essence Awards

The Tenth Anniversary Essence Awards Celebration will be presented as a prime-time, two hour special that will air on Fox Broadcasting Thursday, May 22 at 8:00 P.M. (EDT). The star-studded show will feature honorees including boxing great Muhammad Ali (who receives a Living Legend Award); Marilyn Chamberlain: a Los Angeles woman who runs a home for people with AIDS; Bill

and Camille Cosby and 1996 Olympic Gold Medal gymnast Dominique Dawes; C. Kenneth Johnson, a Washington, D.C., single foster parent who has taken in more than 90 children over the past decade; and Whitney Houston receives the first Essence Triumphant Spirit Award, established to honor an outstanding African-American who exemplifies the true spirit Essence through extraordi-

nary actions and accomplishments. Cissy Houston, Houston's mother, will be in attendance to accept the honor in her daughters behalf.

Sinbad and Halle Berry are the cohosts of the special which was taped at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. The evening features outstanding performances by Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, LL Cool J, Luther Vandross, Mary J. Blige, CeCe Winans, Jennifer

Holliday and Kirk Franklin, with presenters Quincy Jones, Jada Pinkett, the Artist (formerly known as Prince), Brandy and Malik Yoba. This year's presentation includes such momentous highlights as Stevie Wonder's touching and original musical tribute to Bill and Camille Cosby's son, Ennis; LL Cool J's charged appeal for a stop to the violence in the rap-music industry.

## 'The Wedding' opens Rose Festival Arts

The Northwest Afrikan American Ballet is proud to announce its fourth annual Rose Festival Concert at the Intermediate Theater on Friday, May 30 at 8:00 p.m. The Ballet's performance will be the Rose Festival's kick-off arts event. It is also the Ballet's second major concert celebrating its fifteenth anniversary season.

Oregonian writer Bob Hicks has called the Northwest Afrikan American Ballet "One of Oregon's artistic

treasures." Also from The Oregonian, columnist Jonathan Nicholas once described a Ballet performance as "A highly successful artistic experience that bordered on the religious." The Ballet joyfully and energetically presents a world class mix of music and dance. The Ballet consists of sixteen dancers and five principal musicians, occasionally augmented by guest artists. They are true cultural ambassadors, whether presenting original work or keep-

ing alive the dances and music of West Africa. The Ballet strives to present work that is uniquely and wholly African, but also deals with universal themes that most cultures share in common.

The Rose Festival Concert will present the premier performance of "The Wedding," an original work written and choreographed by Ballet director Bruce Smith. "The Wedding" leisurely unfolds as a story of courtship and marriage in a typical

West African village. It both details the everyday life in an African village and plays out courtship rituals that are common around the world. Other dances featured will be "Kou Kou," from the Baga people of Guinea; "The Boot Dance, the Ballet's extremely popular multimedia signature piece, which was originated by coal and diamond miners in South Africa; and "Mandiani," a high spirited social dance from the Bambara people.

## Bisquera: Moving up in the world of Jazz



As one of the Pacific Northwest's up and coming young talents in the music scene, pianist Edward Bisquera, although a relative newcomer to the Portland music scene, "displays both versatile playing and promise as a composer...an impressive debut" - (Willamette Week, 12/96).

He has achieved much success since returning home to the Pacific Northwest in late 1995; with over ten years experience as a Professional pianist, his playing displays both finesse and sensitivity, as well as a deep sense of a strong melodic presentation. He has

the experience and ability to entertain and sustain an audience through a full program of music, providing a relaxed feeling with his performance.

For the 1996 holiday season, Bisquera released an album "Home for the Holidays," produced with Portland's premier saxophonist, Patrick Lamb. The album was released under The Bisquera+Lamb Duo, and features two originals by Bisquera, one of which, "Lullaby for Jazmyne," continues to receive airplay from stations like 106.7 KKJZ-Smooth Jazz and FM 102 KINK.

### The Captain's Global Grooves




photo by Rick Rose

ARTIST	CD	LABEL
Tribute To OSCAR PETERSON	"Live At The Town Hall"	TELARC
Jiff Collin Ensemble	"Outside The Lines"	ARTI FLEX
The Clayton Brothers	"EXPRESSIONS"	OWESI/WB
Brad McJldau	"The Art of Trio"	WARNER BROS
Kurt Elling	"The Messenger"	BLUE NOTE
Diane Schurr	"Blues For Schurr"	GRP
Leonard Hochman	"MANHATTEN MORNING"	JAZZ HEADS
CHARLIE HUNTER QUARTET	"NATLY DREAD"	BLUE NOTE
TURK MAURO	"The Truth"	MILESTONE
Mark Cary	"LISTEN"	ARABESQUE JAZZ
Billy Marcus	"HAMP"	CONTEMPORARY
Shirley Horn	"THE MAIN INGREDIENT"	VERVE
Michel Camille	"THRU MY EYES"	TROPIC-JAZZ
Elaine Elias	"SOLOS & DUETS"	BLUE NOTE
Dennis Springer	"ON THE PATH"	PS

Captain's Music Voyage is now on KMHD 89.1 FM, Wednesday 10 p.m.

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